

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
FLORENCE DIVISION

Gina Lynn Petrone-Knechtel,)	Civil Action No.: 4:16-cv-00764-RBH
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	ORDER
)	
Nancy A. Berryhill, Acting)	
Commissioner of the Social)	
Security Administration,)	
)	
Defendant.)	
_____)	

On July 27, 2017, Plaintiff filed a motion for attorney's fees pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act,¹ asserting the position taken by Defendant in this action was not substantially justified. *See* ECF No. 32. On August 10, 2017, the parties filed a joint stipulation wherein they agreed to an award of attorney's fees in the amount of \$5,400.00. *See* ECF No. 33. The joint stipulation provides that the attorney's fees awarded should be paid to the claimant (not her attorney) and would be subject to the Treasury Offset Program² if the claimant owes an outstanding debt to the federal government. *See id.*

After careful consideration, the Court **ORDERS** Defendant to pay Plaintiff attorney's fees in the amount of \$5,400.00, subject to the Treasury Offset Program provision in the parties' joint stipulation. Pursuant to *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. 586 (2010), the attorney's fees will be paid directly to the claimant and mailed to her attorney, with a copy sent to the claimant.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

August 14, 2017

s/ R. Bryan Harwell
R. Bryan Harwell

¹ 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d).

² 31 U.S.C. § 3716.

Florence, South Carolina

United States District Judge